THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents Trio Mediæval Nov. 15

Acclaimed Threesome Bring Air of Medieval Europe, France to Trinity Cathedral

"Singing Doesn't Get More Unnervingly Beautiful" –Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle

CLEVELAND (Oct. 25, 2006) — The Cleveland Museum of Art proudly presents the acclaimed **Trio Mediæval,** three brilliant young Scandinavian sopranos specializing in a diverse a cappella repetoire that features the polyphonic Medieval music of England and France, on **Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave. in downtown Cleveland**.

Admission to the performance is $34; $29 for CMA Members. Parking is available in the Trinity Commons lot on Prospect Avenue and an adjacent Cleveland State University lot. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the "pay what you can" discount program (on the night of the event) or a 50 percent discount for a group of six or more with valid student ID cards (when purchased in advance). To purchase tickets call the CMA Ticket Center at 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.clevelandart.org/viva.

Comprising three gregarious women, called "hip and lively" by *The New York Times* writer James Ostreich, **Trio Mediæval** formed in Oslo, Norway, in 1997, just as the once-acclaimed Anonymous 4 four was vacating a niche they had previously dominated on the early music scene. Eight years and three hit CDs later (*Words of an Angel*, ECM 2001; *Soir, Dit-Elle*, ECM 2004; and *Stella Maris*, ECM 2005) group founder **Linn Andrea Fuglseth**, **Anna Maria Friman** and **Torunn Østrem Ossum** have garnered international acclaim, pushing past expectations and one ironic obstacle: music of this period was primarily written by men solely for male vocalists. Torrun once noted in an interview with Copper Press Music , "We have to be very careful in our selection of pieces, making sure that they are fit for our voices."

Fortunately, the group's repertoire is as diverse as their stratospheric vocals. The group's performances, hailed as "all but flawless" by the *Washington Post*, center on early music dating back to 12th-15th century England and France, but also include Norwegian medieval ballads and songs, as well as contemporary works. The group performs some 50-60 concerts annually throughout Norway and internationally. Of their performances, Greg Sandow in the *Wall Street Journal* wrote," the group is breathtaking."

(more)

Trio Mediæval's latest release, *Stella Maris* (ECM, Oct. 2005) seamlessly blends the old and the new. Alongside 13th century chants celebrating the English and French Conductus traditions, is a new sacred composition commissioned by the Trio, written by Korean-born Sungji Hong, who met Friman while the two studied at New York University.

Fuglseth was born in Sandefjord, Norway, and completed her higher diploma in singing at the Norwegian Academy of Music in 1997, specializing in baroque interpretation. She received a diploma in advance solo studies in early music from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London in 1995. In addition to writing songs for the group, she also conducts a children's choir in Oslo. **Ossum**, also a native of Norway, was educated at the College of Early Childhood Education in Oslo, specializing in music and drama. She has performed extensively as an ensemble singer with groups including The Norwegian Soloists Choir, Nordic Voices, Con Spirito and Grex Vocalis, in which she also sings as a soloist. She has devoted much of her time to working as a vocal coach for a junior theater troupe, a great advantage for the group's Norwegian School Concert tours, sponsored by the Nowegian Concert Institute. **Friman**, a native of Sweden, studied at Thorbjorn Lindhjem at the Barratt Due Institute of Music in Oslo and Trinity College of Music in London. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of York where she is researching the modern performance of Medieval music. A sought-after soloist, her work in the United States has included coaching and recording with the Girl Choristers of Washington National Cathedral.

The next performance in the **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** series will be a holiday concert featuring **Les Mystère Voix des Bulgares** on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. in The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. This Grammy Award-winning choral ensemble returns for its second **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** performance, musically dissolving the separation between East and West, young and old. For more information on the entire **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** series, visit www.clevelandart.org/viva.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. The VIVA! and Gala Around series is made possible by the generosity of The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund, The P.J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund, The Anton and Rose Zverina Music Fund, and the Musart Society. Promotional support for **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** is provided by WKSU 89.7 FM, WCLV 104.9 FM and 90.3 WCPN Ideastream.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.Clevelandart.org

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